

August 3, 2014



2014-15 Professional Development NOW open for registration!

The following e-mail was sent to all program directors.

I'd like to thank our professional development (PD) staff and PD partners for all their hard work in assembling this year's PD offerings, [calendar](#), [handbook](#) and [catalog](#) together with an eye toward program staff input. We'd also like to thank you for your thoughtful feedback concerning PD. You can find all professional development information by visiting the PD webpage here: <http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/PD201415.htm>.

Our priorities for PD continue to focus on standards-based instruction with an emphasis of putting together what has been learned over three years of Standards-in-Action (SIA) to provide the student with a seamless learning experience from diagnostic activities to achievement of goals. We are eager to elevate what might have, at one point, appeared to be siloed concepts to practical application. Additionally, mathematics, GED® preparation, instructional technology and employing effective instructional strategies that address ELA shifts and mathematical practices (including differentiated instruction) provide ongoing foci for PD (selection based upon survey results from the field).

We took your lead in:

- streamlining required PD;
- integrating more opportunities to remain in your programs and still actively participate in PD and network with peers via technology (e.g., Edmodo, Google Hangouts);
- and offering elective professional growth opportunities (PGOs) for which you have expressed interest in choosing based on your program's needs.

We envision an overarching umbrella of required PD followed by program directors' and staffs' thoughtful consideration of what PD they need programmatically and individually. Therefore, now that more time is available for PGOs of your choosing, we expect you'll be strategic in your choices of study circles and lesson collaborations that advance your student-centered services.

Some of this year's PD (e.g., study circles) will also help inform PD for the coming year FY2015-16. Fortunately, new legislation, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), embraces standards-based instruction and expects states to adopt and programs to fully demonstrate implementation of standards-based instruction. Your work in executing your standards-based instruction action plan should not only be enhanced by future PD, but afford Kentucky the opportunity to lead the way in standards-based instruction in adult education nationwide.

PD partners and coaches will be available for program visits. While PowerPath will remain a viable PD in the future, we've decided this year to determine how

programs are using the system in order to incorporate the most appropriate enrichments to the program in the future. We are particularly enthusiastic about some of our PGOs featuring nationally-recognized educators in their fields of expertise, including a return of Steve Hind; a new Mathematical Reasoning online course developed by Michelle Carson in cooperation with Lynda Ginsburg and Brook Istas; and regional sessions with Bonnie Goonen and Susan Pittman on GED® science and social studies content (watch for announcements – limited capacity).

Finally, you'll find we've simplified PD policy and included more information in the [PD Handbook](#) – something you expressed would be of greater benefit to you as program directors. While the [PD Catalog](#) is less adaptable due to informational technology hurdles, the [PD Handbook](#) is divided into sections (program directors, ABE/GED instructors, ESL instructors, and Elective Professional Growth Opportunities) and features event descriptions, beginning and ending dates, and locations (for face-to-face events).

This year and next will no doubt be full of challenges and opportunities as we begin creating our united planning for WIOA and moving to fulfill its expectations for greater adult education service efficiencies, focusing on standards-instruction and career pathways, and ensuring students' success in college and careers.

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To learn more about Stronger by Degrees, Kentucky's 2011-2015 Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education, visit www.cpe.ky.gov/strongerbydegrees.